

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6485

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, ET

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF SCHOOLS ANNOUNCED

THERE FOLLOWS SUBSTANCE OF ENA RELEASE DATED SEPT. 29
ANNOUNCING THE NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE, PRIMARY AND
JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS UP TO THE EIGHTH GRADE EF-
FECTIVE TODAY:

1. ALL PRIVATE PRIMARY AND JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS
IN ETHIOPIA UP TO THE EIGHTH GRADE EXCEPT THOSE WHICH
MINED CONSIDERS TO BE FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND MISSION
SCHOOLS ARE TRANSFERRED TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP.
2. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF PARENTS AND REPRE-
SENTATIVES OF URBAN DWELLERS COOPERATIVES ARE TO TAKE
OVER SUCH PRIVATE SCHOOLS.
3. COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID TO OWNERS. THE AMOUNT OF
SUCH COMPENSATION AND THEIR NATURE TO BE DETERMINED BY LAW.
4. WHILE OWNERS OR PRINCIPALS OF AFFECTED SCHOOLS MUST
HAND THEM OVER TO SCHOOL COMMITTEES, THEY REMAIN RE-

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SPONSIBLE FOR RUNNING AND MAINTAINING THE PROPERTY UNTIL

RELIEVED FROM THIS OBLIGATION BY MINED.

5. SCHOOL COMMITTEES WILL INITIALLY BE RESPONSIBLE TO MINED UNTIL IT LATER AUTHORIZES URBAN DWELLERS COOPERATIVES TO TAKE OVER THE SCHOOL.

6. SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL BE STAFFED BY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF PARENTS AND URBAN DWELLERS COOPERATIVES. THESE SCHOOL COMMITTEES WILL BE LEGAL ENTITIES AUTHORIZED TO ACT AS SUCH.

7. MINED DETERMINES CURRICULUM OF AFFECTED SCHOOLS AND SUPERVISES ITS IMPLEMENTATION. MINED DETERMINES QUALIFICATIONS OF SCHOOL STAFF, SETS SALARIES AND SCHOOL FEES. IT ALSO ISSUES LEGAL DIRECTIVES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROCLAMATION.

8. ENA RELEASE ALSO REPORTS PMAC STATEMENT EXPLAINING THIS ACTION. THE STATEMENT ASSARTS THAT NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE COMMUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT AND TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXERCISE OF SELF-ADMINISTRATION.

9. THE STATEMENT CONTINUES THAT PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAVE IN RECENT YEARS TURNED FROM EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PRIMARILY INTO PROFIT-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES. THEY HAVE LACKED UNIFORMITY OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND THE PROFIT MOTIVE HAS SUBJECTED THEM TO AN ATMOSPHERE INIMICAL TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE. MOREOVER, POOR QUALITY OF THE EDUCATION PROVIDED BY THESE SCHOOLS WAS UTTERLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE EXORBITANT FEES CHARGED.

10. THE NATIONALIZATION OF THESE SCHOOWS, STATEMENT ASSETS, WILL BRING ABOUT THE USE OF UNIFORM SOANDARDS OF EDUCATION AT FEES COMMENSURATE WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED. TEACHERS WHOSE LABOR HAD BEEN EXPLOITED WOULD ALSO RECEIVE A JUST SALARY.

QQM COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THE PROCLAMATION AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED.
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ACCORDING TO THE ENA RELEASE SUMMARIZED ABOVE, NEITHER THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL NOR OTHER "FOREIGN COMMUNITY AND MISSION SCHOOLS" WILL BE AFFECTED. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE HEARD PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES THAT UPWARDS OF 1,300 SCHOOLS, 7,000 TACHERS AND A QUARTER OF A MILLION STUDENTS MAY BE INVOLVED. MANY OF THESE STUDENTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE MIDDLE-CLASS KIDS WHO FLUNKED OUT OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SECTOR. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT

THIS DECISION WILL DO TO THEIR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.
DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
HUMMEL

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